



OFFICE OF THE  
**COMMISSIONER OF RAILROADS**  
STATE OF WISCONSIN

**JEFF PLALE, COMMISSIONER**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**METRO-NORTH COLISION IS A REMINDER FOR ALL OF US TO  
BE SAFE AT RAILROAD CROSSINGS**

Wisconsin Railroad Commissioner Jeff Plale issued the following statement regarding the train/SUV collision in Westchester County, New York:

Earlier this week a north-bound commuter train from New York struck an SUV that had stopped on the tracks, killing seven people, including the driver of the SUV.

“Our deepest sympathies go out to the families of those who lost loved ones in this horrific accident” says Plale.

Although this happened in New York, Plale reminds drivers that “these type of accidents can happen anywhere and at any time of the day.”

Here in Wisconsin, there are over 4,000 at-grade rail crossings. Rail traffic has increased dramatically throughout the state which heightens the need to be even more vigilant when it comes to practicing rail safety.

The Office of Commissioner of Railroads works daily with our partners -- Operation Lifesaver, local law enforcement, local communities, and the railroad industry -- to ensure that Wisconsin's rail system is as safe as it can be. However, the ultimate test of safety is the common sense of the citizens; never try to beat a train, never stop a vehicle on the tracks, never walk or play on the tracks, and always assume that a train could be coming.

To borrow the Operation Lifesaver motto: **SEE TRACKS. THINK TRAIN!"**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON RAILROAD SAFETY, PLEASE VISIT THE **OPERATION LIFESAVER** WEBSITE AT [WWW.OLL.ORG](http://WWW.OLL.ORG). ANOTHER VALUABLE WEBSITE IS [WWW.SEE TRACKSTHINKTRAIN.ORG](http://WWW.SEE TRACKSTHINKTRAIN.ORG)